

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

24th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 28 – 30 June 2021)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document provides a summary of the institutional developments of the Programme, in particular pertaining to the following sub-items of the Provisional Agenda:

- 4.1 A report on the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of IHP
- 4.2 Proposed Terms of Reference / Guidelines for IHP National Committees

Decisions proposed:

The Council may wish to discuss and approve the proposed Draft Resolution

REPORT ON THE REVISION OF THE STATUTES OF THE IHP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL AND OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (Agenda sub-item 4.1)

1. The Rules of Procedures (RoP) of the IHP's Intergovernmental Council (IGC) were approved at the Council's first session and modified in accordance with the amendment of the Council's Statutes by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 21st, 23rd and 28th sessions.
2. IHP's Council, at its 22nd session (June 2016), endorsed the Bureau's decision aiming to update the Statutes and RoP by its [Resolution XXII-1](#).
3. The IHP Secretariat launched a consultation in October 2016 that lasted till December 2016. After synthesizing the input received, the Secretariat circulate it to Member States for approval in October 2017. Some Member States/Regions considered that their standpoints were not precisely reflected and proposed concrete, reformulated articles during this last phase of the consultation process. These comments were taken into account and a new formulation was then proposed to Member States. The Secretariat synthetized, for ease of comparison, the responses.
4. The IHP Bureau Members at the 56th Bureau session (20-22 February 2018) made further comments and requested the Secretariat to create an open-ended group, led by the Permanent Delegations of the countries member of the Bureau, but composed by all interested Member States represented by their Permanent Delegations, that would work on the Statutes and Rules of Procedure prior to the 23rd IGC, taking into consideration the recommendations of the UNESCO open-ended group on governance.
5. The open-ended group met on 19 April 2018, 27 April 2018 and 3 May 2018. On Friday 18 May 2018 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), all Permanent Delegations were invited to the last meeting (Room VII) of the group prior to the 23rd session of the Council (11-15 June 2018), in order to endorse the Statutes to be presented to the Council. Although the open-ended group worked both on the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure, it decided that only the Statutes would be brought forward to the Council for their adoption. The Rules of Procedure would be dealt with only after the Statutes would have been approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 40th session.
6. This final draft of the text of the Statutes was then submitted to and adopted by the 23rd session of the Council. The revised Statutes were presented to the 206th session of the Executive Board (April 2019) and endorsed with the following amendment: "The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary organs and travel expenses of the representatives of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States members of the IHP Council to meetings of the Council and its Bureau shall be financed from funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO".
7. The revised Statutes were adopted by the 40th General Conference (November 2019) and their revised version is presented at document 40 C/62 Corr.
8. The IHP Council decided, at its First Extraordinary Session (28 November 2019), that the open-ended group resumes the work on the Rules of Procedure, in view of harmonizing them with the revision of the Council's Statutes by the 40th General Conference. These revised Rules of Procedure shall be submitted to the 24th session of the IHP Council for adoption. This group was led by the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of the country members of the IHP Bureau and included, for their institutional memory, the Permanent Delegations of the country members of the outgoing IHP Bureau, as well as all the Permanent Delegations that wish to participate.

9. The Secretariat facilitated three working group meetings from January to February 2020 (24 January, 30 January and 6 February 2020) and an open consultation to all Permanent Delegations (20 February 2020) for validating the draft prior to its presentation at the 24th session of the Council, in order to receive the endorsement of the Council. The revised Rules of Procedure are presented in document [IHP/IC-XXIV/Ref. 2](#)

Resolution XXIV-3

PROPOSAL FOR REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IHP COUNCIL

Submitted by the Secretariat

Supported by

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

- Recalling** 38 C/Resolution 101 on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO as well as decision 40/62 corr. by which the General Conference of UNESCO approved the revised Statutes of the IHP,
- Noting** the need to ensure consistency of IHP's governance with the decisions of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO, as well as further consider the recommendations of the audit of Governance of UNESCO and evaluations of IHP,
- Recalling** the intergovernmental nature of the IHP and its competent bodies,
- Recognising** that updates to the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council will provide clarity on the operation of the Programme, improving its efficiency and efficacy,
- Expresses** its gratitude to the open-ended working group for their work in reviewing and harmonizing the Rules of Procedure in line with the Council's Statutes as approved by the 40th General Conference;
- Further** thanks the IHP Secretariat for facilitating the review process and for preparing the necessary documentation so that the revised Rules of Procedure can be discussed and decided upon at the 24th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council;
- Decides** to approve the revised Rules of Procedure as presented in Annex of this document.

**PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE / GUIDELINES OF IHP NATIONAL COMMITTEES
(Agenda sub-item 4.2)**

10. UNESCO's Water Family comprises of the IHP Secretariat provided by the Director General of UNESCO, with the Director of the Division of Water Sciences acting as the Secretary, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the 169 IHP National Committees, the water related UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO Category 2 Centres. Member States, through the IHP Intergovernmental Council, agree on the work of the IHP in Phases, and it is these actors, which should deliver on the IHP's objectives.

11. IHP National Committees (NC) are constituted under the authority of national governments. NCs are supposed to be multi-stakeholder in membership, including scientific and water management bodies, relevant government organizations, professional associations and civil society. NCs are the owners of the IHP and should have a two-fold mandate: (a) To provide advice to the Government on water-related research, education and capacity development for informed national water policy and sustainable water management; and (b) To be coordinating bodies working with other NCs to achieve shared water objectives, within the IHP framework.

12. Some countries do not have NCs, while the IHP Secretariat and others in the UNESCO Water Family do encourage these to be established. The functionality and size of NCs varies from a focal person to a significantly large Committee and from very active with significant commitment to barely functional.

13. The recent mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII, recommends that each National Committee should have clearly defined functions, including specific roles delivering specific Phase-VIII and -IX targets and to increase interaction with and support to policy makers. Furthermore, it is recommended that each member of the UNESCO Water Family becomes accountable for the implementation of specific outputs of the Programme as these are identified within IHP-IX.

14. The IHP Secretariat, in an effort to facilitate the active participation of the IHP NCs, prepared draft Terms of Reference (ToR) / Guidelines for them (presented in Reference document [IHP/IC-XXIV/Ref. 3](#)). The draft ToRs / Guidelines were shared with the Members of the IHP Bureau and the inputs received were incorporated in the aforementioned Reference document.

RESOLUTION XXIV-4

IHP Governance

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO

- Recalling** the intergovernmental nature of the IHP and its competent bodies;
- Taking into account** decisions concerning governance taken by the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th sessions of the IHP Council, reports of the *ad hoc* Governance Committees established by the 13th and 15th sessions of the Council, and the recommendation of the External Evaluation of the 5th Phase of the IHP;
- Considering** the importance of a governance mechanism for the IHP and the functioning of the IHP Committees, as this has been expressed with Council resolution XVI-7,
- Stresses** the importance of linking all parts of the IHP system: its governing bodies, its National Committees, the UNESCO water related Chair and Category II Centres,
- Recommends** that Member States review the mandate and functioning of IHP National Committees according to the principles which would empower them to:
- i) serve as governmental advisory bodies,
 - ii) co-ordinate contacts with IHP National Committees in other countries and with the IHP Council and its Bureau as well as UNESCO Field Offices and category II centres and water chairs,
 - iii) be multi-disciplinary in nature,
 - iv) commit policy-makers,
 - v) be closely linked to UNESCO National Commissions;
- Invites** the Secretariat to ensure that priority continues to be given at Headquarters and by the Regional Hydrologists to assisting Member States through every means at its disposal
- i) to implement the revised mandate for IHP National Committees, and
 - ii) to organize regular meetings of national committees in all regions, taking into account the particular needs of the African region (regional, inter-regional or sub-regional, as appropriate and feasible), in close collaboration with the Bureau members from the relevant regions;
- Recommends** that Member States and the Secretariat seek innovative solutions to address the funding problem to enable all National Committees to take part in regional meetings and contribute to the implementation of the IHP programme;
- Invites** Member States to report to the 25th session of the Council on the status of their National Committees according to these principles and to every regular IGC session thereafter as part of their regular national IHP report.